

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 8, 2012

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STATE OF COLORADO GOES GOOGLE COLORADO EMBRACES CLOUD COMPUTING AND WILL SAVE \$2 MILLION PER YEAR

The Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT) has selected Google to provide email and calendar services for all Colorado state employees. This decision will allow the state to eliminate disjointed and aging email systems and provide a single email solution to all employees, while saving approximately \$2 million per year.

"Our commitment to redefining good government and providing the best possible customer service hasn't wavered," said Gov. John Hickenlooper. "An important step in these efforts is finding efficiencies wherever possible. This move to a unified email system will save taxpayer money and put all state employees on one communication platform."

Currently, the state has 15 siloed and disparate email systems that in most cases are not integrated with each other. Moving to Google Apps for Government this year will allow state agencies to interconnect email and calendar functions while maintaining strong security and privacy standards. The state's public colleges and universities and the General Assembly will not be affected by this change.

"We based this decision on the evaluation of cost, security and functionality, as well as an alignment to the Administration's overarching goals and our technology roadmap," said Kristin Russell, Colorado's Secretary of Technology and Chief Information Officer. "Using Google Apps for Government will enable more than 26,000 state employees to leverage the latest technology at a reduced cost and burden to the state while enhancing productivity, efficiency and collaboration between departments."

The cost to maintain current on-premise email for state employees is approximately \$5.2 million annually. The move to Google Apps for Government will reduce that amount by nearly half. Google's cloud-based system will allow the state to pay only for what technology is used and reduce maintenance costs. This will allow the state to better plan and budget for email and calendaring services and more quickly adapt to changing demands from individual agencies.

OIT completed thorough testing and analysis of multiple products, including conducting an independent third-party comparative analysis, before selecting Google. Google's security architecture meets or exceeds that state's standards and Google Apps is the first cloud email system that has achieved Federal Information Security Management Act certification, ensuring data is safe and secure.

"With Google Apps for Government, Colorado state employees will be empowered to collaborate securely anywhere, anytime on any device. We are thrilled to have been selected by Colorado and are committed to working closely with the state to make a smooth transition in the coming months," said Michael Lock, Vice President, Google Enterprise, Americas.

Colorado is not the first state to migrate to Google Apps for Government. Wyoming, Utah and Maryland have already made the transition. In Colorado, Google Apps for Government is being used by <u>Larimer County</u>, Eagle County, Colorado State University, Metropolitan State College of Denver, Douglas County School District and Jeffco Public Schools.

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